



TOMPKINS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

121 East Court Street Ithaca, New York 14850
Telephone (607) 274-5560 Fax (607) 274-5578



RESOLUTION NO. 5-2001 -RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING U.S.D.A. FOREST SERVICE SELECT ALTERNATIVE NO. 3, NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY ON NATIONAL FOREST LANDS OR SPLIT ESTATES, WHICH PROTECTS THE NATURAL RESOURCE (FINGER LAKES NATIONAL FOREST) WHILE PERMITTING LEASING OF AND REVENUE FROM MINERAL RIGHTS

WHEREAS, the U.S.D.A. Forest Service has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) identifying Alternative 2 (Leasing under a More Restrictive Surface Occupancy Land Base) as the preferred option for the oil and gas exploration and development in the Finger Lakes National Forest (FLNF), and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council serves as an advisory group on issues of the environment to the Tompkins County Board of Representatives and the community, and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes National Forest is located in Schuyler and Seneca counties, adjacent to Tompkins County, and is used by New York State residents and tourists, including many from Tompkins County, for recreation and enjoyment, and

WHEREAS, oil and gas exploration and development on forest lands will have an effect on the Finger Lakes National Forest, adjacent properties, nearby municipalities and area watersheds, including several in Tompkins County, and

WHEREAS, the U.S.D.A. Forest Service's preferred alternative (Alternative 2) would result in surface disturbances within the forest, fragmentation of natural habitats, potential introduction of additional invasive species, and loss and/or interruption of public recreational use and enjoyment of the forest, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council has determined that Alternative 3 (No Surface Occupancy on National Forest Lands or Split Estates) appears to better address these environmental concerns while allowing the U.S.D.A. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to obtain revenue from the leasing of mineral rights within the Finger Lakes National Forest, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council urges the U.S.D.A. Forest Service to select Alternative 3, which provides the strongest overall environmental protection to the national forest without loss of revenue to the federal, state and local governments and, Furthermore, the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council urges the U.S.D.A. Forest Service to establish a dedicated trust fund using all federal mineral rights income from this site for acquisition of additional land for the Finger Lakes National Forest, or such purposes as the replenishing and maintenance of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, the remediation of environmental damage to the Finger Lakes National Forest resulting from approved Special Use Permits or easements, or the development of renewable energy sources.

Date: July 11, 2001

Voting In Favor: 13

Voting Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The EMC is a citizen board that advises the County Board of Representatives on matters relating to the environment and does not necessarily express the views of the Tompkins County Board of Representatives.

